

Senior Chemistry Seminar

Chemistry 431

Credit, 1 semester hour

No text

Prerequisites: 303-304

Class: MCC 402

1 semester hours credit

Thurs. 4:00 - 5:00 PM

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Course Description:

In order to gain experience in oral communication and in exploration of the scientific literature, students learn how to present scientific information by giving short seminars on selected topics in chemistry, as well as a departmental seminar. A standardized test covering areas of undergraduate chemistry will be administered.

Rationale:

The primary modes of dissemination of new scientific information is through peer-reviewed journal articles and seminars. For any chemist to participate actively in chemical research, he or she must be able to read the chemical literature, listen to seminars given by other chemists, and present seminars on his or her own work or the research of others.

Course Overview:

The class meets for one hour a week during a regular semester; attendance is mandatory. Early in the semester, students will be shown how to use library resources to locate chemical information.

Occasionally, a guest speaker will be invited to deliver a seminar. If possible, these guest lectures will be given at the normal seminar class time. However, this is not always possible, so your flexibility with scheduling is appreciated.

Students are expected to ask questions of the presenting student or visiting speaker at the end of each seminar.

A standardized test from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) covering most areas of undergraduate chemistry will be given sometime during the semester.

At the end of the semester, the "final exam" consists of each student presenting one last formal seminar before the entire faculty of the Chemistry Department and the rest of the class. This final seminar may be graded by the entire chemistry faculty.

Seminars consist of three oral presentations by each student.

Seminar I 5 minutes in length

This first seminar is intended to focus on the historical aspects of chemistry. Each student will choose a famous chemist from history and report on his or her life and chemical achievements. No audiovisual aids will be allowed for this presentation.

Seminar II 7 minutes in length

This seminar will focus on contemporary research in chemistry. Students will choose an article from a recent ACS journal and summarize the research presented there. Each student must prepare a PowerPoint presentation for this seminar.

Seminar III 12 minutes in length "Final Seminar"

Each semester a different theme will be chosen for this final seminar. This theme will often involve technological and social issues. For example, recent themes include environmental chemistry, nuclear chemistry, and chemistry in the popular press. Each student must prepare a PowerPoint presentation for this seminar.

Service Component:

The Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry believes that responsible scientists should contribute to the overall welfare of the community. Thus, each student is required to tutor for at least two hours this semester at Mississippi College's Tutoring Center.

Grading:

Grades are based primarily on presentations, class attendance, participation, and the score on the standardized test. The final seminar will compose 50% of the final grade. However, a score on the ETS test more than 6 points below the national average will prevent the student from receiving an *A* in the course regardless of how well they do presenting their seminars, and a score on the ETS test more than one standard deviation below the national average will prevent the student from making a *B* in the course. Please refer to the *Mississippi College Undergraduate Bulletin* for a discussion of the university's grading system and how quality points are assigned.

Attendance: Your attendance at all class meetings is expected. Please refer to the *Mississippi College Undergraduate Bulletin* for a discussion of the university's attendance policy. Absences are recorded on the grade report that is mailed at the end of the semester.

Academic integrity: Mississippi College students are expected to be honest. Please refer to the *Mississippi College Undergraduate Bulletin* for a discussion of plagiarism and cheating. Also refer to the *Mississippi College Tomahawk* or to University Policy 2.19.